

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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3-12-01

In re Applicant:

PAUL L. POOL
WILLIAM H. GOWAN

Filed: March 26, 1998

Serial No. 09/517,383

For: PROTECTION OF PIPELINE JOINT CONNECTIONS

Art Unit: 3627

Examiner: Dave W. Arola

Attorney Docket No.: 85356.0011

AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action of September 15, 2000, please amend the present application as follows:

Please cancel claims 1-16.

17. (TWICE AMENDED) A cover for protecting exposed pipeline joint sections on weight coated offshore underwater pipelines, comprising:

a pliable cover material overlapping adjacent end portions of the weight coat, completely enclosing the exposed pipe joint section, and sealed in place forming an annular space around the pipe;

said cover material comprising a sheet of material wrapped in a cylindrical shape
and having overlapping side edges sealed together to form said annular space;

said annular space between the exposed pipeline and the cover material filled with a joint filling material of a high density open celled polyurethane foam, formed by reacting polyurethane chemicals inside the cover material; and

said cover material including an opening formed in the sheet for injecting the joint filling material into the annular space.

Please cancel claim 18 without prejudice.

Please cancel claims 20 and 21 without prejudice.